

S/ID

17th March, 1959.

COCOM Document No. 3415.58/3

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

ON

ITEM 1558(a)(1)

12th and 16th March, 1959.

5. General

Present: Belgium(Luxembourg), Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Documents Nos. 3415.58/1 and 2; 3415.00/1.

1. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegation introduced their Memorandum, COCOM Document 3415.00/1, proposing the following wording for the revision of Item 1558(a)(1):

"..... for continuous periods in excess of 20 hours at any specified frequency from 25 cycles per second to 170 cycles per second inclusive".

They recalled that the examination of this matter had followed from the German Delegation's query as to whether it was intended that the vibration in excess of 20 hours should be carried out at a single frequency or at a band of frequencies swept between 25 and 170 cycles per second. The answer was that the test was made at a given frequency in that band.

2. The UNITED STATES Delegate confirmed what he had stated on an earlier occasion - that he had been authorised to accept the German proposal to insert the word "all" in the definition before the word "frequencies". He had now received authority which would enable him to accept the new United Kingdom proposal. He therefore remained in the hands of the majority.

3. The FRENCH Delegate said that he could accept the text proposed by the United Kingdom Delegation.

4. The GERMAN Delegate stated that, if the United Kingdom text were adopted, there might be a risk that certain valves would be considered in the United Kingdom to be under embargo because they withstood testing for more than 20 hours at a frequency of 25 cycles per second, whereas in Germany or the United States they would not be regarded as covered by the definition in view of the fact that they did not stand up to testing over the whole range of frequencies between 25 and 170 cycles per second; or, for example, when one country tested a certain kind of valve at 170 cycles, the valve would be destroyed and would be free from embargo, while in another country the same kind of valve, tested at 25 cycles, would stand up to the same test and be embargoed.

5. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate explained that at the present moment it was agreed amongst technical valve experts that the criterion which decided whether a valve was reliable (or "ruggedised") was the type of test envisaged by the United Kingdom wording: 20 hours at a stated frequency - that is, one frequency. The question as to which frequency should be selected was a matter for each country to decide according to local practice. The valve would stand or fall by the test, no matter which frequency between 25 and 170 cycles might be chosen.

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6. The NETHERLANDS Delegate, in supporting the United Kingdom text, agreed with the view just expressed by the United Kingdom expert. He added that for practical reasons it would be impossible to test the tubes at all the frequencies referred to.

7. The CANADIAN and JAPANESE Delegates accepted the United Kingdom text.

8. The FRENCH Delegate asked that the French translation of this text should read:

"..... pendant des périodes continues de plus de 20 heures à la seule fréquence spécifiée qui doit être comprise entre 25 et 170 c/s inclus".

9. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate said that there would be no objection on his Delegation's part to the insertion in the English text of the word "one" after "any", so that the phrase would read:

"..... for continuous periods in excess of 20 hours at any one specified frequency from 25 cycles per second to 170 cycles per second inclusive".

10. After a further exchange of views, the United Kingdom Delegate explained that, while participating countries were free to test over the whole range of frequencies from 25 cycles to 170 cycles per second should they wish to do so, a considerable fund of knowledge had already been built up and would soon to make such action unnecessary. He added that, like the United States, a number of European countries (including France and the Netherlands) used 25 cycles per second.

11. The CHAIRMAN, summing up the situation, pointed out that almost all Delegations agreed to the text proposed by the United Kingdom Delegation as amended by the French Delegation; the United States Delegation, however, would also be ready to agree to the German proposal. He asked whether the German Delegation could join the majority.

12. The GERMAN Delegate stated that he must refer the matter back to his authorities. He reminded the Committee of the point dealt with in the second paragraph of his Delegation's Memorandum, COCOM Document 3415.58/1, and asked whether the valves in question would be embargoed under the United Kingdom wording.

13. The UNITED KINGDOM expert replied in the affirmative.

14. On the 16th March, the GERMAN Delegate repeated the arguments set out in paragraph 4. above, and the Committee AGREED to await written suggestions from the German Delegation for a new definition.

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